

Council on the Deaf & Hard of Hearing

MINUTES

MARCH 14,
2014

10:00AM – 4:00PM

1 WEST WILSON, MADISON

MEETING CALLED BY	Justin Vollmar
PRESENT	Nicole Everson, Tracy Haas, Denise Johnson, Billy Mauldin, Steve Smart, Alex Slappey, Justin Vollmar
ODHH STAFF PRESENT	Dan Millikin, Melani Kaplan, Amber Mullett
ABSENT	Gary Ebben, Brienne Hale
INTERPRETERS	Maria Kielma and Amy Simonsen
CAPTIONIST	Peggy Christensen

Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Justin Vollmar, Chair.

Agenda topics

COUNCIL MEMBERS INTRODUCTION & APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

DISCUSSION		
Introductions: The Council members and meeting attendees introduced themselves.		
Approval of meeting minutes postponed due to unforeseen circumstances delaying their completion.		
Motion made by Steve Smart to review December meeting minutes, when they are completed, via email. Voting to approve the minutes will take place during May meeting. Seconded by Billy Mauldin. Tracy Haas has amended the motion that voting on the minutes occurs via email. Denise Johnson seconded. Motion with amendment carried.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Finish meeting minutes	Melani Kaplan	5/8/14

INTRODUCTION OF DAN MILLIKIN, NEW DIRECTOR FOR ODHH

DISCUSSION		
<p>Dan Millikin shared his background with the Council. Prior to coming to ODHH, his work history includes serving as the Director for the Student Accessibility Center at NTID in New York, a teacher of Math at the New Mexico School for the Deaf, and working at a federal level. Dan has a law degree from UW so he is familiar with Wisconsin. Dan looks forward to ensuring that high quality services are provided to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the community.</p>		

VISION OF ODHH & COUNCIL'S ROLE

DISCUSSION

Council members reviewed past achievements and current projects for Dan Millikin. Prior achievements include support for the Interpreter Licensure bill, the passage of a bill mandating insurance coverage for hearing aids for children, etc. Council members plan to use their networks and resources to make a positive difference for the people of Wisconsin who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind. The importance of social media as a communication tool was also discussed.

ODHH is a state agency that provides resources, information and referral for people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind. Services are available to anyone and any entity in Wisconsin, such as employees, families, organizations and other state agencies, etc. Because ODHH is a state agency, it cannot provide any direct services, such as Independent Living Centers do. ODHH works with Aging and Disability Research Centers throughout the state. ODHH also collaborates with other state agencies, community groups and other entities on projects and events in Wisconsin.

Council members expressed the need for better resources, better navigation through the resources and better overall support for the needs of individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind. While access to services is a little easier in the larger metropolitan areas of Wisconsin, the lack of consistency throughout the state leaves a lot of people falling through cracks. Those that live in a more rural setting face more frustrating barriers and have to fight harder to get their needs met.

The Council wants to see that their work to have measureable outcomes and results.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DISCUSSION

Dan Millikin

Communication Card: Dan Millikin has asked the Council to temporarily hold moving forward with the Communication Card so that he can check into DHS policies, legality of content, and how the process between ODHH and Council projects works.

Staff Updates: ODHH currently has three Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialists; Nancy Harbison (Northeastern Region), Shawnee Thomas (Northern Region), and Bette Mentz Powell (Southern Region). Carolyn Small, former D/HoH Specialist for the Northwestern Region has retired. The other D/HoH Specialists are working

together to ensure full coverage of services for Carolyn's region and throughout the state. Dan Millikin is currently working with the Human Resources Department of DHS to fill the vacancy left by Carolyn's departure. Once the arrangements are settled with HR, Dan will be able to share more information with the Council. Dan's goal is to make sure the state of Wisconsin has full coverage and access to ODHH's services. Because of this, Dan is unable to make an official announcement as to Amber Mullett's scope of work.

Part of the restructuring of ODHH that Dan is in the process of assessing is the need for Wisconsin to have a formal unit that focuses on and supports communication access – providing support to the state for interpreting, captioning, VRI, VRS and related projects. Other states have similar units in this area.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT

DISCUSSION	Justin Vollmar
<p>Council Business Conducted Between Meetings –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> December, 2013: The Council voted via email for the Communication Card to be published, the video and webpage for the Communication Card to be released on the Council website. <p>Governor Walker invited Justin Vollmar, as Chair for the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, to a meeting with Chairs from various Councils related to disabilities. Unfortunately, due to winter weather, the meeting was postponed to another date. Justin will make it a priority to attend whenever the meeting is rescheduled.</p>	

SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTATION

DISCUSSION	Vincent Holmes
<p>Presentation – This is to follow-up on Vincent Holmes' presentation to the Council during the December 2013 meeting. Vincent Holmes shared his research on the demographics and statistics of DVR services in Wisconsin for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind. Vincent states that his research shows that the agency does not have a good grip or understanding of the needs of Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind individuals. The agency stated that it had 16 counselors that know sign language. Vincent asks them to prove this number by an outside language proficiency measurement tool – not a self-assessment that is often misleading. Vincent also encourages someone to represent the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and/or Deafblind on the Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council (WRC). The current Chair of the</p>	

WRC stated that other states do not have VR/DVR counselors who specialize in deafness. Vincent disputes this statement. His research has found examples in other states that do have such positions. For example, Georgia has 17 specialists, Alabama has 16 specialists, and Illinois has them as well. The ultimate goal for this research is to have a deaf program in the Wisconsin DVR (like other states have) that are supervised, set up trainings, monitor performance, recruit and hire, develop a program and set up policies specific for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Deafblind in this state. Florida has such a program and its plan was shared with the Council.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Share Vincent's email with Council members.	Melani Kaplan	5/8/14
Investigate how ODHH and DVR relate and what ODHH and the Council can work with DVR.	Dan Millikin	5/8/14

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION
<p>Communication Card – Motion by Tracy Haas: Move that Dan Millikin submits the Communication Card to the DHS process, EIA, for approval. Seconded by Denise Johnson. Motion carried.</p> <p>Tracy Haas will secure from Jason Haas the letter certifying the use of the images on the Card. This is to be sent to Dan Millikin.</p> <p>Legal Liaison – The Council and Dan discussed possible places that such a position should be placed and partners in developing the plan.</p> <p>Council Website – Dan will need to do some more investigating on how the Council website fits in the DHS procedures for deploying new information or collecting.</p> <p>Council Communication Efficiency – The captioning transcript of Council meetings will be sent to Justin Vollmar to complete the Council Meeting Minutes within two weeks following each meeting.</p>

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
<p>Communication Card:</p> <p>Letter certifying images in Card are copyright free.</p> <p>Dan will submit the Card through the DHS process that vets and approves any public communications (EIA).</p>	<p>Tracy Haas</p> <p>Dan Millikin</p>	<p>5/8/14</p> <p>5/8/14</p>

Council Website: Dan will check into how the Council Website fits in the DHS information release approval system.	Dan Millikin	5/8/14
Council Communication Efficiency: Justin Vollmar will complete the meeting minutes for the March meeting.	Justin Vollmar	3/31/14

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION

Wisconsin for the Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Program (WDBTAP) – Nicole Everson moved that a representative from WDBTAP attend the May meeting to present on their program and Deafblind related issues. Council agreed.

Council Orientation and Training – Nicole Everson has asked that the Council consider a way for the members to share information on the diversity and scope of the culture, language, equipment, individual choices, and history of Deafness, Hearing Loss and Deafblindness. Tracy Haas suggested as a part of this topic that the Council consider some teambuilding activities. Council members will think about this and discuss during the next meeting.

Service Fund – Denise Johnson shared concerns that the Service Fund does not have sufficient funds to cover needs in the community. Dan Millikin explained the budgeting process for ODHH and the state. He understands the concerns and will include that in his considerations in his next submission for budget approval.

Interpreter Licensure Complaint Process – Examples of how the complaint process as gone at DSPS. Member expressed concern that the Complaint Department at DSPS is not following through. Unqualified interpreters are still working in violation of licensing and the process against them is not having any affect.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
WDBTAP: Invite representative from WDBTAP to May meeting.	Justin Vollmar and Nicole Everson	5/8/14
Council Website: Dan will check into how the Council Website fits in the DHS information release approval system.	Dan Millikin	5/8/14

Next Meetings – 2014

May 8

September 12

December 11

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISCUSSION

Denise Johnson announced that she is presenting workshops on Interpreting 101

for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community to clarify rights on getting an interpreter, how to file a complaint against an interpreter, etc. The next one will be in Menasha on April 12th.

Nicole Everson announced that the Foundation Fighting Blindness is having a fundraising walk in Milwaukee on May 18th.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20pm by Justin Vollmar, Chair.